



HONORING THE ADAMS FAMILY

Learning Objectives: The students will...

1. Understand and evaluate the importance of the contributions of John, Abigail, and John Quincy Adams to the United States.
2. Design an appropriate memorial to the Adams family.

TEKS: 8.4B, 8.7D, 8.20B, 8.23E

Materials Needed: Honoring the Adams Family PowerPoint, appropriate materials for props for the memorial.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Relate to the students that on November 5, 2001, the U.S. Congress created the Adams Memorial Foundation with the authorization to create a memorial in Washington D.C. to the Adams family to honor their contributions to the United States. This foundation is in the planning stages for the design of the memorial. As a side note, a past Law Day celebration theme honored John Adams and his commitment to the rule of law. Law Day is a celebration that began in 1958 with President Eisenhower's proclamation which stated that Law Day was to be "a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law." John, Abigail, and John Quincy Adams were all deeply committed to this principle.
2. Show the PowerPoint of the contributions of the Adams family to American history, stopping to discuss the major ideas with the students. Discuss how all three illustrate the importance of the rule of law.
3. After viewing the PowerPoint, divide the class into groups of seven to eight students and explain that they are going to create a living memorial to honor the Adams family and their contributions to America. Each memorial should contain the following:
 - a. A living memorial of human statues depicting the roles of John, Abigail, and John Quincy Adams in American history.
 - b. Props as needed to more accurately identify the roles of all three.
 - c. An appropriate title for the memorial.
 - d. A paragraph explaining the meaning, symbolism, and significance of the memorial.
 - e. A tour guide that will present the information from the paragraph to the class as the memorial is shown to the class.
4. After the groups have finished their preparation, allow the groups to set up their memorial one at a time for presentation to the class.
5. After all groups have presented, allow the students to decide the memorial that best captures the role of the Adams family in American history.
6. As a culmination of this lesson, have the students individually write a dismiss slip in which they define the three most important ideas they will remember about the Adams family and their contribution to the democratic principles in American history.